

WEST CENTRAL MONTANA AVALANCHE CENTER

For General Information: 406-329-3750

For Weekend Snowpack and Weather Information: 406 - 549 - 4488 1 - 800 - 281 - 1030 (MT only)

http://missoulaavalanche.org

Lolo, Bitterroot and Clearwater National Forests

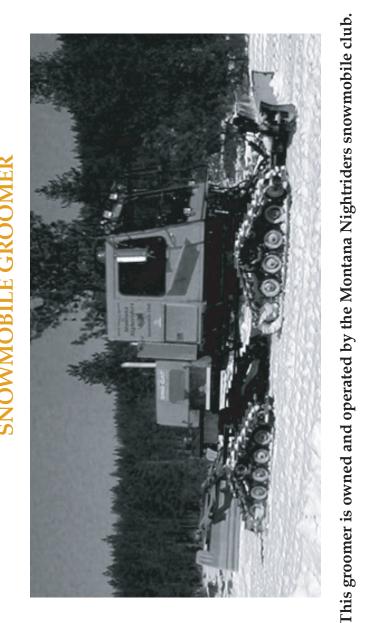
For local information visit: http://montananightriders.org/

THREE MAJOR CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

- 1. Excessive Speed-slow down for the conditions, use the play areas.
- 2. Alcohol Impairment-wait until the end ride or when you get home.
- 3. Lack of familiarity with machine-participate in a snowmobile safety course.
- All snowmobile accidents can be prevented. Please drive safely.

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AVALANCHE AWARENESS GUIDE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO Call to obtain updated weather and avalanche information.

- AWARENESS WHILE RIDING
 Look for evidence of recent avalanches, shooting cracks in the snow or snow collapsing with a "whumpf" sound. These signs usually mean the snow is unstable. The avalanche danger is likely increasing if it is snowing, blowing or raining.
- RECOGNIZING AVALANCHE TERRAIN

 1) Avalanches start on slopes steeper than about 30 degrees, but can be triggered from below on flatter terrain in unstable conditions.
- 2) Slopes with wind-deposited snow are often unstable. Cornices indicate a wind loaded slope.
- 3) A slope that's recently avalanched indicates unstable conditions on other slopes of a similar angle, aspect and elevation.

SAFETY TIPS

1) If you ride on or beneath potential avalanche slopes, travel one at a time, even when highmarking.

- 2) Don't stop in areas exposed to avalanches.
- 3) If caught, try to ride out of the slide, but if this fails, make swimming motions while trying to stay on the surface.
- 4) Have all members of the group carry avalanche beacons, shovels and probes and be sure everyone knows how to use them.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

PHYSICALLY FIT?

Remember that human efficiency declines in cold weather. Top physical condition may be required to walk out if equipment fails.

GOING ALONE?

Travel in a group of at least three people and two snowmobiles.

GOOD EQUIPMENT?

Know how to make repairs; carry an emergency repair kit. Have enough gas, with some to spare. Carry snowshoes or skis.

TRIP PLANNED?

Know where you're going and stick to it. Inform a responsible person of your planned route and when you'll return. Use registration boards where provided.

CHECK WEATHER FORECAST?

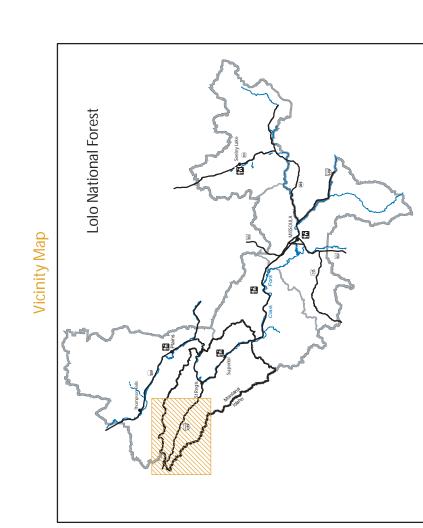
Don't travel in a storm. Turn back if the weather turns bad. If visibility is reduced or area is unfamiliar, follow your tracks back out.

STAY ON SAFE ROUTES?

Avoid avalanche terrain. Avoid thin ice or unsafe river crossings.

CARRY A SURVIVAL KIT?

Equip snowmobile with survival material. Review publications on winter survival. Carry matches (waterproof), hatchet, plastic sheet (9' x 12'), first aid kit, spare food pack, snowshoes or skis.



MULTIPLE TRAIL FUNDING

There are several sources of funds utilized for the development, maintenance and upkeep of winter recreational trails. They include:

- * Snowmobile registration A state decal is purchased by all snowmobilers: 50% is used for development, maintenance and operations of snowmobile facilities and 50% is used for enforcement of snowmobile regulations and laws.
- Snowmobile fuel tax, a state gas tax 15/28 of 1% of the state gasoline dealers' license tax is utilized for the development and maintenance of snowmobile facilities.
- Recreational trails program A federally funded program that offers grants for trail development, renovation, maintenance, acquisition, safety and interpretation for both motorized and non-motorized trails.

Groomed snowmobile trails are managed by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in cooperation with the Lolo and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Trails are groomed and maintained by the Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club depending on logging activity, snow conditions and equipment operations.

The Superior Ranger District Snowmobile Trail system straddles both Montana and Idaho. Please be aware of snowmobile licensing requirements in both states.

Please watch for Bonneville Power Administration traffic, especially on Routes 1 and 5.





The warming shelter, located near intersection F, was constructed as a partnership project with the Montana Nightriders, U.S. Forest Service, and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. There is a restroom facility located here.

IF LOST OR EQUIPMENT FAILS

- · Keep calm think, decide on a plan. · Trust your compass.
- · Backtrack if possible.
- If not possible, remain in place.
- Don't separate if with a party.
- Don't abandon your snowshoes or skis.
 Build a fire and shelter Stay warm.
- · Mark your base camp.

DISTRESS SIGNALS:

Three smokes, blasts or whistles, three shouts, three flashes of light, three of anything that will attract attention.

WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE IS OVERDUE:

Keep calm - Notify proper authorities: Law officer, Forest Service Personnel GIVE PROPER INFORMATION

SNOWMOBILE OPERATOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

1) I will be a good sportsman. I recognize that people judge all snowmobile owners by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners to promote sportsmanlike conduct.

2) I will not litter trails or camping areas. I will not pollute streams or lakes.

3) I will not damage living trees, shrubs or other natural features.

4) I will respect other people's property and rights.

and rescue parties.

facilities.

downhill.

5) I will lend a helping hand when I see someone in distress.

6) I will make myself and my vehicle available to search

7) I will not interfere with or harass hikers, skiers, snowshoers, ice fishermen or other winter sportsmen. I will respect their rights to enjoy our recreation

8) I will know and obey all federal, state and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I use my vehicle.

9) I will not harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection or feeding of wildlife.

Please be respectful of all users:
When encountering other users on the trail, please move to the right.
Yield to faster snowmobilers and those coming

15 9 3 4 -10 9 13 6 0 -7 -13 7 11 4 -2 -9 -15 5 9 3 -4 -11 -17 5 8 1 -5 -12 19 5 8 1 -5 -12 19 7 0 -7 -14 -21 8 6 -1 -8 -15 -22 2 5 -2 -9 -16 -23 2 5 -2 -9 -16 -23 2 4 -3 -10 -17 -24 1 4 -3 -11 -19 -26 Frostbite Times 30 minutes Achill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215 Where, T=Air Temperature data from National Oceanic

5 36 31 10 34 27 15 32 25 27 20 30 24 30 28 22 40 27 20 50 26 19 50 26 19 50 25 18

DO NOT RUN OVER TREES

Tree Topping is a Serious

Problem!

Broken tree tops cause major problems to the

health and growth of trees and may render

them useless for timber harvest. Please

Mixed land ownership exists in this area

future snowmobiling opportunities.

(State and U. S. Forest Service). Forest lands

are important to us all. Let's not jeopardize

respect this resource.

chill

Wind

IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Follow these guidelines when viewing wildlife:
Give wildlife plenty of space, they have to preserve

precious energy to survive the winter. Even a small disturbance, causing them to run, may deplete energy reserves critical for survival. Avoid any action that causes them to move or alter their activity.

Observe animals from a safe distance. Use

binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto camera lenses.
Stay seated on your snowmobile and continue moving at a slow steady pace. Stopping or getting off your sled is more likely to disturb wildlife.

· Respect closures or restrictions.

AIR QUALITY

Reduce fossil-fuel emissions and protect Montana's unique environment.

 Reduce idling time of snowmobiles and automobiles. This not only avoids unnecessary adverse impacts to air quality, but saves gas and money, too.

Perform pre-trip tune-ups. This maintenance measure will also help ensure trouble free and safe winter travel.

Consider using synthetic biodegradable oils available from snowmobile dealers.

VEGETATION

AVOID RUNNING OVER THE EXPOSED TOPS OF TREES. Stay away from areas of little or shallow snow cover. Mechanical damage to the ground and vegetation can cause spring soil erosion and damage to other valuable resources.

SOUN

Montana law establishes a noise limit of 78 decibels for snowmobiles. When riding on public land, please use the manufacturer's muffler system. This not only satisfies Montana law, but also results in reduced impacts to wildlife and other winter recreationalists.







TRAIL MARKERS
Orange Diamond - Snowmobile Trail







HAZARD WARNING SIGNS Yellow

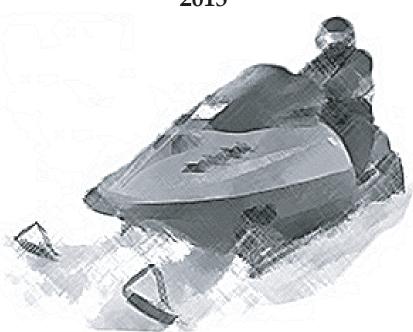
23-2-654. Snowmobiler's assumption of responsibility - duties.

1) A snowmobiler assumes the risk and all legal responsibility for death or injury to himself or other persons or property that results from the risks inherent in the sport of snowmobiling. The assumption of risk includes but is not limited to death or injury caused by the following: variations in terrain, surface or subsurface snow or ice conditions, cornices, avalanches, poor visibility, bare spots, rocks, trees, other forms of forest growth or debris and plainly marked trail maintenance equipment.

2) A snowmobiler is responsible for:

- Knowing the range of his own ability to snowmobile any slope, trail, or area and for snowmobiling within the limits of his ability considering the conditions;
- Maintaining control of his speed and course at all times while snowmobiling;
- Heeding all posted warnings; and
- Refraining from acting in a manner that may cause or contribute to the injury of anyone.
- 3) The provisions of this section do not affect a products liability cause of action based upon the design or manufacture of snowmobile equipment or products or Safety equipment used incidental to the operation of a snowmobile

SUPERIOR AREA SNOWMOBILE TRAILS 2015



SUPERIOR RANGER DISTRICT AND THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS





